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AIR

SCAA-8459

FEB 16 1954

ACTION-SE/1

ATTN : Chief, SE

OBOPUS

- Discussion of OBOPUS Affairs

1. On several occasions during [ ] visit to [ ] he generously devoted a considerable amount of time and thought to the OBOPUS project. Per his request and current practice, we are filing a report detailing the important portions of the discussions which we believe should be put on the record.
2. On 26 January [ ] [ ] [ ] and the writer had a long session on present policy toward HTNEIGH and what alternatives could and should be pursued to carry out this policy. The conclusions of this particular conference and the basis for them was reported in detail in the dispatch which is currently being pouched to Headquarters and Rome on this subject. Paragraph 10 of the cover letter to this study (the dispatch is as yet unnumbered) explains the paper was drafted by [ ] and then reviewed, edited and approved by all concerned. This recapitulation of the chronology was incomplete in that the writer did not make it absolutely clear that the original impetus arose from [ ] participation in our discussions of the twenty-sixth and from previous talks in Rome between [ ] and [ ]. As believed apparent from the study, our session of January twenty-sixth on HTNEIGH and subsequent meetings on January 27, 28, 31 and February 1 aired the subject very thoroughly. Please consult the dispatch in question for details. The matter boiled down to the question of continuing support to HTNEIGH. Having generally agreed that it was worth supporting as it was considered an important card in KUBARK's hand in aiding KUBARK in carrying out its present directive to maintain unrest in Albania by fostering irritants of various types, the discussion turned to how this could best be done with a very substantial budgetary cutback a sine qua non and the further requirement laid on us that HTNEIGH must retain some vestiges of effectiveness and stature. The conclusions found in the study is the field's answer to this problem - HTNEIGH sinks or swims on its own, supported as a straight subsidy; and we continue to provide direct support in the PW field so that the message

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to the Albanian people is not lost. If [ ] is puzzled by our failure to include agent operations in these discussions, and reports, the premise was established at the outset that our operational requirements are a thing apart from the question of HTNEIGH and would be carried on to the best of our ability at approximately 1953 levels irrespective of the fate of HTNEIGH, even though a radical move vis-a-vis HTNEIGH might handicap these operations.

3. On 27 January, [ ] spent a good portion of the day with [ ]. Past operations and future operational plans were discussed with emphasis on APPLE, including a review of the various papers on the subject, and the need for thorough, regular, objective operational reporting. [ ] was informed we fully appreciated the importance of this requirement and were confident our monthly reporting of each segment of OBOPUS activities reflected it, though we still have a good distance to go to raise this reporting to the standard we would like to set. With regard to operations, [ ] was told the "roundup" paper on 1953 activities was being prepared and would be dispatched in early February, and this would be followed by our outline for 1954. The writer also explained [ ] was reviewing all past operations and we were establishing a set of criteria to determine the value of each team to OBOPUS. [ ] stated the view that we could be expected to receive a 1954 directive requiring this desk to maintain its efforts to infiltrate teams into the country at levels consistent with past operational activity. Use of singleton agents should also be given very careful consideration. In the face of some discussion and speculation that our infiltration program might be cut out or sharply curtailed, this was reassuring, as were [ ] remarks in the same vein several weeks previously. Unfortunately, [ ] absence in Tripoli at this time prevented his participation in the discussion of operations.
4. From this subject the conversation turned to OBOPUS field personnel. We were advised [ ] would be paying us a visit in two or three months. [ ] case was summarized and [ ] discussed in detail. [ ] concurred with our frequently expressed position on [ ] and agreed [ ] promotion action would be initiated two to three months after [ ] return to the United States. Prior to departure, [ ] again brought this matter up and was informed that as a result of his decision [ ] was storing his furniture at this Station and definitely planning to return.
5. At this meeting and on a later occasion, OBOPUS PW activities were discussed. [ ] felt the decision on keeping HTGRUBBY

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on the air depended on the receptivity study now being done by Commo. at [ ] request. The drop program was explained in detail as [ ] sat in on our monthly briefing of the Senior Representative of the operations planned for the month. This enabled the Division Chief to become closely acquainted with content of material, target selection, and other matters germane to this activity. With regard to clearance of texts, [ ] felt the field must have sufficient leeway so that we can produce material in the field under general Headquarters policy guidance without resorting to clearing each item. As a great deal of CBOPUS PW material will originate at this Station if everything goes according to plan, this is an important principle but one that should not become a problem as in the past BRAHAM in Rome has had little, if any, difficulty.

6. Following luncheon on the twenty-seventh, [ ] joined [ ] and [ ] and a discussion of the Ioannina Station and its affairs followed. [ ] was briefed on the day-to-day problems [ ] is encountering with KYFE in Ioannina and on the routine followed whenever a refugee reaches Greek soil. The conversation provoked questions on the present-day attitudes of the Albanian people, [ ] evaluation of the refugees he has handled, and an inquiry to determine how we could improve exploitation of each arrival - both in improving our debriefing and then using it to advantage. [ ] was asked to give serious thought to the state of mind of the populace and their willingness to identify themselves with anti-regime forces, actively or otherwise. [ ] will begin to submit papers of this nature in the second quarter of the year.
7. The principle of [ ] having direct contact with the Greek Foreign Office was approved during [ ] visit. This matter has arisen as the ODACID officials here who discuss Albanian matters with their opposites would like to have someone on hand at their discussions who is fully familiar with the Albanian emigre political scene. Considering the uncertain future of HTNEIGH, [ ] strongly feels we should not utilize this contact to pressure the Greeks in any way with regard to their attitude toward HTNEIGH but approved establishing the liaison as a means of keeping us closer to Greek thinking, to open up an additional contact, and to honor ODACID's request; as they have been most cooperative in passing information to CBOPUS and following up our requests in the past.
8. In addition to the above subjects, [ ] was brought up to date on the current activities of our reporting section and also

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learned the general makeup of our training program, though unfortunately a visit to ORATLANTIS was cancelled. This resume has purposely attempted to be all inclusive to give [ ] and others concerned at Headquarters a complete picture of the visit in so far as it concerns OBOPUS. By so doing the writer intends to show no stone was left unturned, and from our viewpoint this approach to OBOPUS/ATHENS, and the idea of the visit itself, was most welcome and desirable.

15 February 1954

WFH/ewl

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